

CLAIMS

1. Piezoelectric ceramics characterized by
containing, as a main component, a bismuth layer-structured
5 compound having $(M^{II}_{1-x}Ln_x)Bi_4Ti_4O_{15}$ crystals (M^{II} is an element
selected from Sr, Ba, and Ca, Ln is an element selected
from lanthanoids, and x is within a range of $0 < x \leq 0.5$) and
further containing, as secondary components, at least one
of Mn oxide and Co oxide, and lanthanoid, wherein the
10 content of the lanthanoid being the secondary component
falls within a range of 0.02 to 0.12wt% in terms of oxide
thereof.
2. Piezoelectric ceramics according to claim 1,
15 wherein the content of said Mn oxide or Co oxide falls
within a range of 0.02 to 0.62wt% in terms of MnO or CoO.
3. Piezoelectric ceramics according to claim 1,
wherein lanthanoid selected as Ln is any one of La, Pr, Sm,
20 Gd, Dy, and Ho.
4. Piezoelectric ceramics according to claim 1,
wherein the lanthanoid being the secondary component is any
one of Pr, Nd, Sm, Gd, Dy, and Ho.